

LAGOMARSINO LAW
 3005 W. Horizon Ridge Pkwy., #241, Henderson, Nevada 89052
 Telephone (702) 383-2864 Facsimile (702) 383-0065

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 ANDRE M. LAGOMARSINO, ESQ. (#6711)
 CORY M. FORD, ESQ. (#15042)
 3005 W. Horizon Ridge Pkwy., #241
 Henderson, Nevada 89052
 Telephone: (702) 383-2864
 Facsimile: (702) 383-0065
 AML@lagomarsinolaw.com
 Cory@lagomarsinolaw.com
Attorneys for Plaintiff C.L. Jane Doe

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEVADA

C.L. JANE DOE, a minor, by and through her natural parent and legal guardian, A.T. GRACE DOE,

Plaintiffs

v.

RABIA KHAN, an individual; and CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT, a political subdivision of the State of Nevada.

Defendants

CASE NO.: 2:23-cv-00922-CDS-DJA

ORDER GRANTING PLAINTIFF'S
PETITION FOR MINOR'S
COMPROMISE, PAYMENT OF
ATTORNEY FEES AND COSTS AND
FOR THE CREATION OF A BLOCKED
TRUST ACCOUNT

[ECF No. 4]

THIS MATTER came before the Court upon the verified Petition of Plaintiff C.L. JANE DOE, a minor child, by and through his Natural Parent and Legal Guardian, A.T. GRACE DOE, by and through their counsel of record, ANDRE M. LAGOMARSINO, ESQ. and CORY M. FORD, ESQ. of LAGOMARSINO LAW, pursuant to their *Petition for Minor's Compromise, Payment of Attorney Fees and Costs, and for the Creation of a Blocked Trust Account*, no opposition being filed, and the Court having fully considered the matter and being fully familiar with the pleadings and papers on file herein, the Court finds as follows:

1. That A.T. GRACE DOE is C.L. JANE DOE's mother and is legally permitted to bring this Petition on behalf of C.L. JANE DOE, a minor, pursuant to NRS § 12.080.

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2. That the court has an inherent duty to protect the interests of minors and incompetents who appear before it. See *Keith v. Jackson*, 855 F. Supp 765, 775 (E.D. Pa. 1994) (citing *Dacanay v. Mendoza*, 573 F.2d 1075, 1079 (9th Cir. 1978)). As part of that duty, the Court must determine the fairness of any settlement agreement and the reasonableness of any attorney's fees and costs to be paid from the settlement amount in a suit brought on behalf of a minor or incompetent.

3. That federal courts have held that it is appropriate to apply the rules prescribed by state law in determining the fairness of a minor's compromise and the reasonableness of any attorney's fees and costs allocated from that settlement in both federal question and diversity cases.¹ For example, see *Erie RR. v. Tompkins*, 304 U.S. 64 (1938), and *Stecyk v. Bell Helicopter Textron, Inc.*, 53 F Supp.2d 794, 801 (E.D. Pa.1999).

4. In approving the settlement, the court must also assess the reasonableness of the requested counsel fees. In so doing, the court must "strike a balance between being a 'passive proforma rubber stamp'...and being too intrusive in its consideration of the fairness of counsel fees."²

NOW THEREFORE,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that the Court grants the Petitioner the authority to compromise the claims of the minor, C.L. JANE DOE, and accept the proposed Settlement in accordance with NRS § 41.200 and create a blocked trust account.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that the Court finds that the total settlement amount of FIFTEEN THOUSAND DOLLARS AND NO CENTS (\$15,000.00) is hereby approved and the amount should be disbursed as follows:

¹ Local district courts are authorized to adopt rules of procedure. See 28 U.S.C. § 2071. The local rules, however must be consistent with the national rules. See Fed. R. Civ. P. 83(a) ("A local rule shall be consistent with--but not duplicative of--Acts of Congress and [the national] rules...."). Once adopted, the local rule has the force of law. See *Tarkett, Inc. v. Congoleum Corp.*, 144 F.R.D. 282,284 (E.D. Pa. 1992) (citing *Baylson v. Disciplinary Bd. of the Supreme Court of Pa.*, 764 F. Supp. 328,348 (E.D. Pa. 1991), aff'd, 975 F.2d 102 (3d Cir. 1992)).

² *Stecyk*, 53 F. Supp.2d at 800 (quoting *Gilmore v. Dondero*, 582 A.2d 1106, 1109 (Pa. Super. Ct. 1990)).

- a. \$6,000.00 for attorney fees, on a forty percent (40%) contingency fee basis.
- b. \$523.24 for case costs.
- c. \$8,476.76 to the blocked trust account for C.L. JANE DOE.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that all settlement monies shall be paid, as set for above, within thirty (30) days of the entry of this Order.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that Petitioner's mother, and natural parent of said minor, C.L. JANE DOE, or her agents, shall establish a blocked trust account, as provided by NRS 41.200 (5) and 41.200 (8), at Bank of America, a Federal Insured Bank in the State of Nevada, located at 2638 West Horizon Ridge Parkway, Henderson, Nevada 89052.

Authorization to establish a blocked trust account for the benefit of the herein named minor is hereby given to Petitioner A.T. GRACE DOE, as natural parent of said minor, C.L. JANE DOE, and CORY M. FORD, ESQ., or his representative.

Funds deposited in the blocked trust account shall not be liquidated or diminished prior to the minor reaching the age of eighteen (18) years without Court Order upon a showing that the withdrawal is in the best interest of the minor child. A final accounting will be required upon the 18th birthday of the child. Funds shall not be released without a Court Order. Application for an Order releasing funds must be made to the Court granting this compromise.

That Petitioner and Cory M. Ford, Esq. must, within 60 days of the date of this order, file with this court, proof that the blocked trust account has been established. If proof of the blocked trust account is not filed within 60 days, the petitioner and Cory M. Ford, Esq. must appear for a status hearing on **December 22, 2023, at 10:00 AM** in LV Courtroom 6B. The hearing will be vacated upon the filing of the proof of the blocked trust account.

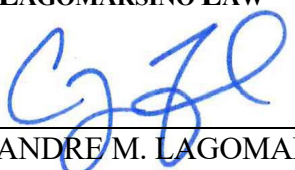
1 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED** that the petitioner shall be
2 ordered by this Court to file periodic verified annual reports, should the court deem it appropriate, in
3 order to detail the activities of the blocked trust account during the previous twelve (12) months,
4 pursuant to NRS 41.200(5).

5 DATED: October 23, 2023

6
7 
8 Cristina D. Silva
9 United States District Judge

10 Respectfully submitted by:

11 **LAGOMARSINO LAW**

12 
13 ANDRE M. LAGOMARSINO, ESQ. (#6711)
14 CORY M. FORD, ESQ. (#15042)
15 3005 W. Horizon Ridge Pkwy., #241
16 Henderson, Nevada 89052
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18 Facsimile: (702) 383-0065
19 Attorneys for Plaintiff C.L. Jane Doe
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